

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IGA-01 EB-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 HEW-02 IO-10

COME-00 TRSE-00 ARAE-00 /089 W

----- 014068

P R 212121Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9854

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 1208

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EAID, HA

SUBJECT: COMBINED PROGRAM OF INCREASED FOOD FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
AND GOH PURCHASES REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY TO MEET DROUGHT EMERGENCY

REF: PAUP 1193

1. SUMMARY. AT CONCLUSION OF SERIES OF MEETINGS INCLUDING GOH, VOLAG AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PROLONGED DROUGHT HAD CREATED AN EMERGENCY SITUATION IN HAITI AND THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO FEED WORST STRICKEN THROUGH AN ACCELERATION OF FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM AND HAITIAN PURCHASES ON COMMERCIAL MARKET (PREFERABLY WITH CCC CREDITS). AT SAME TIME INVESTIGATIONS WOULD BE CONTINUED TO DETERMINE FULL EXTENT OF PROBLEM, WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT FURTHER STEPS BY GOH OR US MIGHT BE NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. GOG AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS STATED THAT IMMEDIATE NEEDS WERE TO SUPPLY FOOD IN NORTHWEST REGION. THEY ESTIMATED THAT 300,000 PEOPLE WOULD NEED FOOD FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO FIVE MONTHS. TOTAL FOOD NEEDS, BASED ON 2,000 CALORIES PER DAY, WOULD THUS TOTAL CLOSE TO 24,000 METRIC TONS.

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3. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO ESTABLISH BOTH NEED AND LOGISTICS FOR FEEDING SO MANY PEOPLE. HE STATED THAT HACHO AND CARE OFFICIALS ALREADY HAD A SYSTEM WHICH COULD REACH APPROXIMATELY 120,000 OF THOSE WORST HIT BY FOOD SHORTAGES. THEY WERE ALREADY FEEDING 27,000 PEOPLE, AND COULD FEED AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 FOR 3 MONTHS WITH STOCKS AVAILABLE IN HAITI. THEY WERE WILLING TO BEGIN EXPANSION OF THEIR PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY. AT THE SAME TIME EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND TO WASHINGTON THAT ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF FOOD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AN EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOH. HE SUGGESTED THAT, WITH RESPECT TO THE 200,000 PEOPLE WHO CANNOT BE REACHED BY THE HACHO SYSTEM, THE GOH INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING SOME COMMODITIES ON CREDIT TERMS THROUGH THE CCC.

4. THE GOH SEEMED VERY RECEPTIVE TO THE PROPOSALS. A SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS TO BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY TO CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, THE MISSION DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HAITIAN DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC HEALTH, ARMED FORCES, FINANCE, PUBLIC ORDER AGENCIES, AND OTHER FOREIGN AND HAITIAN INSTITUTIONS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM. COMMITTEE WILL BE CHAIRED BY HAITIAN RED CROSS. COMMITTEE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSPORT FACILITIES (THROUGH ARMED FORCES), IMMEDIATE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF INCOMING FOOD SUPPLIES RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PORT-AU-PRINCE AND AFFECTED AREAS, SECURITY, STORAGE IF NEEDED, PEOPLE TO HANDLE DISTRIBUTION, AND SUPERVISION OF LOCAL COMMITTEES. AT SAME TIME AGRICULTURE UNDER SECRETARY LEVEILLE WILL INVESTIGATE, WITH ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY, POSSIBILITY OF COMMERCIAL PURCHASES.

5. USAID PLANS START TRAVELS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY TO ASSESS PRESENT AGRICULTURAL SITUATION AND BEST ESTIMATES ON TIMING FOR NEW FOOD CROPS. GOH IS ALSO CONTINUING ITS INVESTIGATION AND WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED.

6. COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDATION: (1) THAT SUPPORT BE GIVEN TO REQUEST FOR INCREASED DONATIONS OF FOOD TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. TELEGRAM WILL FOLLOW RE QUANTITY AND TIMING OF FOOD SHIPMENTS. (2) THAT DEPARTMENT ALSO SUPPORT IN NAC A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CCC CREDIT TERMS LONGER THAN 12 MONTHS FOR HAITIAN PURCHASES, AND FOR APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SMALL AMOUNT OF EDIBLE OIL UNDER THE CCC PROGRAM.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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